Remarks

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on April 12, 2002. Claims 1-12 are presented below for examination.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure due to informalities. Applicant herein appropriately amends the specific portion of applicant's specification referred to by the Examiner, correcting the informalities to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nazem et al. (U.S. 5,983,227), hereinafter Nazem. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner states that Nazem teaches an Internet Portal comprising substantially the limitations of applicant's claim.

Applicant has carefully studied the art of Nazem, particularly the portions cited and applied by the Examiner, and the Examiner's rejections and statements. In response, applicant herein amends the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicant amends the language of claim 1 to specifically recite that the Internet Portal maintains a list of Internet destinations, which are specifically authorized and specified by a subscriber, and that the information retrieved by the summary software agent accessing the Internet destinations is stored by the portal and is personal information personal to the subscriber.

Applicant's claim 1 as amended now recites:

1. *(Amended) An Internet Portal, comprising:*
      an Internet-connected server; and
      a portal software executing on the server, including a summary software agent;

wherein the Portal maintains a list of Internet destinations specifically authorized and specified by a subscriber, and the summary software agent accesses the Internet destinations, retrieves information personal to the subscribing user, stores the retrieved information at the portal, according to pre-programmed criteria, and summarizes the retrieved information for delivery to the subscriber.

On page 4, first paragraph, of applicant's specification it is clearly described that the software agent executing on the portal server may be programmed to perform scheduled tasks for the user including returning specific summaries and updates about user-account pages, and a search function cooperates with the software agent to search user-entered URLs for specific content if such pages are cached somewhere in their personal form such as at the portal server, or on the clients machine. In applicant's invention each Web site that is accessed by the portal software agent contains information personal to the user, such as financial or other sensitive personal data, and each Web site has been preselected and authorized by the user to provide such personal information. In many embodiments of applicant's invention characteristics of destination Web pages are researched by live facilitators maintaining and enhancing the secure portal software, and many characteristics may be provided in configuration modules for users to accomplish specific tasks, usually transparent to the user.

The page servers of Nazem obtain data to populate a customized Web page by consulting the stored user template and user preferences, i.e. interests, favorite sports teams, etc., and then searching <u>various</u> Web sites on the Internet, <u>Web sites that have not been preselected or authorized by the user</u>, to provide the data for building the Web page in accordance with the user criteria. Live data, such as teams scores and stock quotes, for example, that the page generator of Nazem may include in the user's Web page, may be stored in shared memory and may be retrieved from a variety of Web sites supplying such information.

Col. 3, line 22-24 of Nazem recites "page servers 104 obtain the live data from many disparate sources and re-format the data into a form suitable for use by the page server".

Referring now to the specification of Nazem, col. 6, lines 23-50 describes, with reference to figure 6, an example of data gathering using intelligent defaulting for populating a user template and consequently a user summary page. In the example presented, as part of user registration to the service, a user provides a ZIP code which is used to locate an approximate geographic location of the user, mapping the location of the user, and in selecting which Web sites the information will come from, a circle is drawn around the user and increased until the circle envelopes a suitable predetermined number of cities and sports teams. Although the user in Nazem may customize the Web page specifying the intelligent defaults as described, the user does not specify, preselected or preauthorized Web sites providing the data, as in applicant's invention. In Nazem the user simply chooses the provided URL on the customized Web page, the URL listed on the user's Web page based on a variety of factors including the stored user preferences and/or user geographic location.

Further, the Web page generator of Nazem retrieves data from the various Web sites based on user preference as specified in the user template, the data being shared data, such as stock quotes and sports scores, which is readily accessible by anyone else on Internet simply by a user browsing the Internet selecting the URL for the specific Web site, or for other Web sites compiling such data. There is no teaching in Nazem of anything having to do with secured personal information stored at the Web sites visited, information that is personal to the subscribing user. The portal software also stores data personal to the subscribing user in order to access such secured Web sites on behalf of the user.

The specific limitations in applicant's claim 1 as amended of the portal maintaining a list of Internet destinations specifically authorized and specified by the user, and that personal information personal to the subscriber is retrieved

and stored by the portal, is clearly not taught or suggested in the art of Nazem. Applicant therefore believes that independent claim 1, as amended, is clearly and unarguably patentable over the art of Nazem.

Applicant's claim 7 is applicant's method claim for practicing the Internet Portal of the present invention. The Examiner has rejected claim 7 using the same rationale as applied to applicant's claim 1. In view of applicant's above amendment to claim 1 and arguments presented, applicant herein accordingly amends the language of method claim 7 to clearly recite that the information at Web sites for providing summaries to the user, is information that is personal to the subscribing user, retrieved from Web sites that are preselected and authorized by the subscribing user.

Applicant's method claim 7 as amended now recites:

7. (Amended) In an Internet Portal system, a method for providing summaries of information personal to a subscribing user, stored at WEB sites specifically authorized and specified by a subscriber, URLs for which are maintained for individual subscribers, the method comprising steps of:

(a) configuring a summary software agent executable on the Portal to access the URLs;

(b) retrieving information from individual ones of the WEB sites accessed according to pre-programmed criteria specific to each subscriber; and

(c) providing the information to the subscriber.

Applicant believes independent claims 1 and 7 are now patentable over the art of Nazem, as the prior art clearly fails to disclose the limitations of applicant's claims as amended, and therefore fails to support the prime facie rejection of applicant's claims given by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected depending claims 2-6 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has being unpatentable over Nazem, in view of Nehab, (6,029,182). As argued above by applicant on behalf of amended claims 1 and 7, the reference of Nazem clearly fails to support a prima facie rejection, and the reference is therefore not a proper primary reference for use in combining the art to read on applicant's claims as amended. The Examiner's statement that the combined art reads on applicant's claims is therefore rendered moot, and applicant's claims 2-6 and 8-12 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims as amended are patentable to applicant over the art of record, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the specification:

Please replace the last paragraph beginning on page 23, line 23, and ending on page 24, line 3 with the following paragraph:

"A parsing engine 87 is provided and adapted to parse individual WEB sites according to a template created via scripting module 79. Parsing engine 87 may be a Perl engine, an IE HTML engine, or any other or combination of known parsing engines. The template (not shown) tells control 85 and parsing engine 87 where to go and what fields at the destination site to look for to access desired data. Once the data fields are located, parsing engine 87 gathers current data in the appropriate field, and returns that data to the service for further processing such as data conversion, compression and storage, and the like."

In the claims:

1. An Internet Portal, comprising:

an Internet-connected server; and

a portal software executing on the server, including a summary software agent;

wherein the Portal maintains a list of Internet destinations [specific for] specifically authorized and specified by a subscriber, and the summary software agent accesses the Internet destinations, retrieves information personal to the subscribing user, stores the retrieved information at the portal, according to pre-programmed criteria, and summarizes the retrieved information for delivery to the subscriber.

7. In an Internet Portal system, a method for providing summaries of information <u>personal to a subscribing user, stored</u> at WEB sites <u>specifically authorized and specified by a subscriber</u>, URLs for which are maintained for individual subscribers, the method comprising steps of:

(a) configuring a summary software agent executable on the Portal to access the URLs;

(b) retrieving information from individual ones of the WEB sites accessed according to pre-programmed criteria specific to each subscriber; and

(c) providing the information to the subscriber.

Respectfully Submitted,

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